

Serial No. 09/740,706

- 2 -

Art Unit: 2633

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 4-7, 9 and 11 – 15 are objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 4, previously indicated as allowable. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 2,3 and 5-7 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants have also amended claim 8 to include the limitations of claim 11, previously indicated as allowable. Thus, claims 9, 10, and 12-15 are now in condition for allowance. Claim 16 has been amended to include structure indicated as allowable in claim 2, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Newly added claim 17 modifies previous claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 2, previously indicated as allowable. Claims 18-21 serve to add further patentable limitations to claim 17 and are therefore allowable with claim 17. Claim 22 has been amended to combine patentable limitations of claim 8 and claim 9, and thus is in condition for allowance. Claims 23-27 serve to add further patentable limitations to claim 22 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons put forth in claim 22. Claim 28 modifies previous claim 16 to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

Serial No. 09/740,706

- 3 -

Art Unit: 2633

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Lindsay G. McGuinness, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

11/13/2003  
Date

Lindsay G. McGuinness  
Lindsay G. McGuinness, Reg. No. 38,549  
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)  
Steubing McGuinness & Manaras LLP  
125 Nagog Park Drive  
Acton, MA 01720  
(978) 264-6664

Docket No. 2204/A78 120-207  
Dd: 11/13/2003